

# DNR seeks Lake Koshkonong comments

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A recent Wisconsin Supreme Court decision directs the Department of Natural Resources to examine the economic impacts of higher Lake Koshkonong water levels on area residents and businesses.

The decision (exit DNR) was the result of a 2003 petition by The Rock-Koshkonong Lake District requesting higher summer and winter lake levels. For more information on current and requested lake levels go to [dnr.wi.gov](http://dnr.wi.gov) and search for Lake Koshkonong.

In 2005, based upon criteria described in state statutes, DNR denied most of the requested changes. This decision was appealed by the Rock-Koshkonong Lake District leading to the Supreme Court's action.

At the direction of the Supreme Court, the department is specifically seeking comment from shore land owners, businesses, clubs and others focused on any physical, social or economic impacts higher lake levels may have on their property or business.

For additional information on the operation of the Indianford Dam and Lake Koshkonong water levels, visit [dnr.wi.gov](http://dnr.wi.gov) and search for "Indianford dam."

There is a link on that page to subscribe to receive email updates on Lake Koshkonong water levels and other information.

"We're asking folks to send us their comments, both pro and con, on why and how higher water levels on the lake would economically impact their property or business," said Steve Ales, a DNR water programs supervisor.

"As natural resources managers we can predict water level impacts to wetlands, fisheries and shoreline vegetation and we understand how water flows in the geographic area that feeds the Rock River and Lake Koshkonong but we are less certain about the economic impacts of higher water levels on landowners and businesses. That is why we are asking folks to send us their comments and opinions," said Ales.

Lake Koshkonong is a 10,595 acre lake situated mostly in Jefferson County with small portions in Dane and Rock counties. The lake was originally created by the construction, in 1851, of the Indianford Dam across the Rock River. Long and wide and of considerable surface area, the lake is shallow with a maximum depth of 7 feet. In some areas, a water level increase of a few inches can result in a noticeable change in the shoreline and watercraft accessibility to docks.

Comments will be accepted through close of business March 13. Written comments should be sent

to:

Steve Ales

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or

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